PANCHAYATI RAJ

AUGUST 1965

A bumper crop. These happy peasants are trying their best to make the country self-sufficient in food.

VOL. VI AUGUST 1965 No. 5
SRAVANA 1887

CONTENTS

Letters .. ..
Karanprayag—*J. P. Jakhetia* .. 2
Bharthla on the March —*Inder Singh Malwai* 3
Women March Ahead in Mangalore—*M. Salochna* 4
Mattampally : Where Women Rule—*T. Mohan Kumar* .. 5
Mamu Majra Shows the Way —*D. N. Ojha* 6
Changing Face of Rural India .. 8
Story of a Successful Farmer —*Chinmoy Nag* 10
Gadiraju—*N. Ramanathan* 11
Shramdan on Every Sunday —*P. N. Jain* 12
Dokiparru—*A. Jaya Rama Rao* .. 13
A Village Parliament in Session —*A. B. Datta* 14
From Here and There 15

EDITOR : A. P. SHOME
COVER DESIGN : D. S. VERMA

BUSINESS NOTICE

Single Copy : 15 P.
Annual : Rs. 1.25

All enquiries regarding agencies and rates of subscription and advertisements may be addressed to the Publications Division, Old Secretariat, Delhi-6. Editorial correspondence may be addressed to the Editor, *Panchayati Raj*, Ministry of Community Development & Co-operation, Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi.

LETTERS

FROM GRAM SEVAK TO DEV. COMMISSIONER

Sir,

I am pleased to read the letter of Shri M. Shankar Rao, Village Level Worker, Andhra Pradesh, published in your esteemed journal in its April (1965) issue. I agree with Shri Rao that proper incentive is required to be given to the Gram Sevaks who are the key personnel of Community Development programme. We are fortunate to have a Minister for Community Development at the Centre who has always supported this view.

There can be a good number of chances created for the Block Development Officers also to the suitable administrative posts in the Development Departments like (a) Development (b) Revenue (c) Agriculture (d) Medical (e) Industry (f) Information Department etc., apart from Development Department alone, since the Block Development Officers are in close touch with all these departmental activities. As in the case of Gram Sevaks, there are many Block Development Officers who have rendered about ten years of good service but yet got no chance of promotion.

I need not stress the importance of creating an incentive for various categories of workers in Community Development programme like prize competition, as is already in vogue in the case of Village Level Workers. The Government is already granting National Awards for teachers, farmers, defence personnel, police, railways, voluntary organisations, social workers etc. The role of Block Development Officers under Panchayati Raj is great and difficult. It is high time that their role in nation-building is properly realised and appreciated. All of us will be extremely happy to hear, if there is at least one instance in our country of a Gram Sevak being promoted as a Development Commissioner even after a lapse of twelve years. This, despite the fact that at the third conference of Development Commissioners at Ootacamund a resolution was passed that a Gram Sevak should not be debarred from holding the post of a Development Commissioner if he had the required ability and efficiency.

20-6-65
Hassan
Mysore

Yours etc.
V. D. Veerakyathiah
Block Development Officer

SPIRIT OF DEDICATION

Sir,

It is said that the Panchayati Raj aims at developing the capacity of common men and women and to organise them to work for their own development and thus progress of the country as a whole. Panchayati Raj is established through non-official workers. At the official level the Government is implementing the Community Development programme for which 5,200 Blocks have been set up all over the country. More than two lakhs of officials are engaged in the rural upliftment work in these Blocks under the leadership of Block Development Officers. All of them have the necessary training for this work.

(Continued on Page 13)

KARANPRAYAG

Progress And Prospects

J. P. JAKHETIA

KARANPRAYAG is one of the nine Community Development Blocks of Chamoli, a newly created border district of Uttar Pradesh. It is situated on the left bank of Alakananda river. It is connected with Rishikesh by a motorable road. Its height ranges from 2,300′ to 7,000′ above sea level. The Block extends over 71 sq. miles or 45,440 acres. Of these 11,491 acres are under plough; but only 1,076 acres are irrigated. Forests and pasture land cover nearly 26,575 acres. The rest of the area, about 14,004 acres, are barren.

According to the 1961 census, the Block has a population of 23,275 belonging to 4,520 families spread in 140 villages. The female population outnumber the male as the men move out for employment in the army or in big cities. Nearly 35 per cent of the total population is literate; but hardly 6 per cent of adult females can read and write. The people are very orthodox in their customs and religious practice. Untouchability still prevails among them. Social evils such as bigamy and intoxication are also prevalent. They say they are self-satisfied but on the whole they are careless and indifferent towards their improvements.

The State Government has taken vigorous steps for providing educational, medical, transport, irrigational and drinking water facilities to the people. At present two intermediate colleges, one higher secondary school, two junior high schools, 30 primary and one normal schools are running where nearly 3,400 students, both boys and girls, are studying. There are one allopathic and two ayurvedic hospitals besides a compounder unit and a child welfare and maternity centre. Though there was an increase of 16.7 per cent in the population during the ten years from 1951 to 1961 the death and birth rates practically remained the same. Child mortality is high mainly for want of immediate medical help.

The average land holding is 8.5 acres. The land is poor in fertility. Both kharif and rabi crops are sown, the latter accounting for 66.7 per cent of the cultivable area. Wheat is the main crop and gives an yield of about 30 maunds per acre. The average annual income from agriculture per family comes to about Rs. 500. Practically all the female population is wholly engaged in agriculture, while about 65 per cent of the males devote whole time and 10 per cent only part time. Five per cent of the male population is in business and about 15 to 20 per cent is engaged in manual labour in road construction, etc. where the daily wages range from Rs. 4 to Rs. 6 per day.

Horticultural activities have been taken up by some families to supplement their incomes. Malta, orange and banana are being grown on commercial basis.

The region being dry there is scarcity of fodder and the people are not interested in keeping cattle. There are hardly 1,000 cows and buffaloes, half of them milk yielding.

There are about 4,628 sheep and goats in the Block area. The wool obtained from them is of poor quality and is consumed for self-sufficient production of woollen goods. There are very few looms and professional weavers. The available looms are known as piethu looms. Except for the migrating families, charkhas are not commonly used for spinning. Others use the takli. They spin on them for sweaters and twead.

Women are interested in knitting. The woollen industry if encouraged by providing raw wool, improved implements, and training facilities for knitting, spinning and weaving, it can increase the meagre income of the people.

With the exception of one spinning centre (*jal charkha*) run by the State Industry Department, there is no other institution to undertake and promote village industries although there are possibilities of developing village oil, bee keeping and fibre industries. The raw materials for these industries are available there.

OTHER INDUSTRIES

Edible oilseeds such as mustard, lahi and til are available in the area. By a rough estimate 100 maunds of mustard, 200 maunds of lahi and 300 maunds of til are produced.

Beekeeping is another industry which has a vast scope throughout the hills. Wild flora is available everywhere upto a height of 4,000 feet. The hills are generally rich in fibres, both leaf and hemp.

The supply of atta and paddy dehusking chakkis at high altitudes, where there is no arrangement for grinding of corns etc. will give physical relief to the womenfolk. Underemployment rather than unemployment is the main problem here.

Karanprayag is awaking from its age-long slumber. The people are fast realising the need of improving their lot and they are coming forward to do their best. They should be organised through mass contact and directed to the goal of prosperity.

(*Courtesy* : *Jagriti*)

BHARTHLA ON THE MARCH

INDER SINGH MALWAI

BHARTHLA, a small village in Ludhiana district of Punjab, was like any other small village in the country, maintaining an insignificant existence—unknown, uncared. The people were satisfied with their squalid life. Poverty with all its evil companions persecuted them. They did not care. They were down with age-long slumber. They did not know that a new dawn had come to the country. They did not know that the rural India was undergoing a revolutionary change through the implementation of the Community Development programme. Even if they had heard the drum beatings in the rest of the country, they did not care.

The land at Bharthla was divided into small plots which did not yield enough to meet the farmer's bare requirements. There were no facilities for irrigation. The land was mostly sandy tracts. There was no good road to connect the village with the outside world.

But things started changing the moment a National Extension Service Block was established at Samrala, one mile and a half from Bharthla. The tiny village throbbed with a new life. The people soon became partners in the general nation building enterprise. They showed a remarkable consciousness of their new responsibility.

The first attention was given for the obvious reasons to agriculture. The small holdings were consolidated. Fortunately for the people of Bharthla, the district Ludhiana was marked for Intensive Agriculture District Programme which benefited this small village immensely. Pumping sets were installed to quench the thirst of land. Chemical fertilizers were applied to this neglected soil for the first time. The quantity of chemical fertilizers used, however, was not of the required standard. The people showed more preference for organic manures. The agriculturists dug two compost pits per family while non-agriculturists had one pit per family. Every farmer now owned a set of improved agricultural implements.

Groundnut is the main crop in this village as the soil is mostly sandy. Previously the villagers got about ten maunds of groundnut out of one acre of land. But now with better manuring and irrigation and improved agricultural methods they have been able to make the land yield about 20 maunds of groundnut per acre. Moreover, the same land is yielding another crop, wheat. Two crops from the same land were not heard of at Bharthla even a few years back.

Along with the change of land there was a change in outlook of the villagers. A volunteer force which was organised in October 1962 due to emergency soon broke off on account of internal conflicts. Once again luck favoured the people of Bharthla. It was selected as a venue for competition among four Blocks, Ludhiana, Samrala, Machchiwara and Doraha. This gave the impetus to the people of Bharthla. Their village volunteer force was reorganised and development works were undertaken by them.

The compost pits were dug. The circular road around the village was repaired and an approach road—one mile and a half long—was made in four days.

The people of Bharthla are now proud and gay. They have at last realised their own strength. Their efforts have not gone unnoticed and unrewarded. Their village was adjudged second in the Block-level competition. With course of time Bharthla is sure to win more laurels and usher in a better living place for the future generations.

WOMEN MARCH AHEAD IN MANGALORE

M. SALOCHNA

A view of the tailoring class run by the women's organisation of Mangalore Block

WITH THE introduction of Community Development programme the women of Mangalore Taluk of Mysore have found a new outlet for their energetic activities. As a result of their enthusiasm for social services about 21 women organisations with 1,257 women members have come up in Mangalore and Moolki extension areas along with six women welfare centres. The extension authorities have placed before them a common programme of activities, which is being implemented by these organisations with sincerity and hard work.

Ten women organisations are conducting Balwadis where 620 children are being trained in a cultured atmosphere. When they grow up they will be decent citizens of our country.

These women organisations are also trying to spread literacy among the adults. The organisations at Baikampadi and Padavu arrange training classes for women, and have helped 84 women to become literate.

Family planning training is another important programme of the women organisations of Mangalore. About 92 women have been trained by these organisations in family planning.

Women of this area have made quite a good contribution to the national defence fund. The organisations at Kinnigol, Moolki and Swatkal have collected Rs. 1,320. A few women have also donated ornaments.

Twelve organisations are running libraries. Eight women organisations have also got themselves registered and are having their own buildings.

Women of this area are individually participating in community activities and camps and help in preparation of compost manures and development of kitchen gardens etc. The Extension Centre supplies various vegetable and fruit seeds as also sapplings to the intending producers.

In October 1964 the women's organisation at Panambur arranged an essay writing competition on the subject, "The role of women under the present circumstances". Participation of all women organisations in the Taluka in this competition was noteworthy. The Villal Mahila Samaj got the first prize while the Uchchil Mahila Mandal secured the second prize.

At the 12 tailoring centres run by the women organisations with a view to providing scope for improving the economic lot of women about 370 women have been trained. About 127 of them have secured sewing machines at half cost. Tailoring and knitting classes for three days in a week are being conducted by the women organisations at Kannigol, Haleangadi, Padavu, Suratkal, Bikampadi, Bajpal. Hosabettu, Sasihittalu, Kilpadi Kudupu, Kotekar, Semeshwar, Maroli and Uchchil.

Children at play in the Balwadi run by the Mahila Mandal of Moolki Block in Mysore State.

The Extension Centre has been encouraging the activities of these women organisations by all means. Arrangements have been made for contributing Rs. 20 and Rs. 10 as grant-in-aid to women organisations conducting Balwadis and training centres towards meeting the salaries of the instructors. This assistance from the Extension Centre has encouraged the women of Mangalore to march forward with confidence. They are aware that they have a tremendous role to play for the advancement of the country.

(*Courtesy : Panchayati Rajya, Mysore*)

MATTAMPALLY :

where women rule

T. MOHAN KUMAR

MATTAMPALLY IN Nalgonda district of Andhra Pradesh has an all-women Panchayat which has proved beyond doubt that women are capable of bearing any responsibility entrusted to them. The Panchayat has asserted in no faltering terms the late Prime Minister Shri Jawaharlal Nehru's words, "To the measure women go ahead, to that measure India will advance." The all-women Panchayat of Mattampally, in its short existence of one year and a half, has an extraordinary record of achievement to its credit.

The Panchayat started the rural upliftment work step by step. Adult literacy classes were opened. The past few months have been notable for the attention given to adult education by the Panchayat.

There has been a marked increase in the number of pupils, thus creating the need for more social workers and honorary teachers. These adult literacy classes have made no less than 3,000 people literate up to date.

Various community development activities have been successfully undertaken by this Panchayat within the limits of available programme funds.

SYMBOLIC PATH

As far as communications go, the Panchayat initiated the construction of a *kutcha* road stretching a few miles and connecting Mattampally with the neighbouring village, Amaravaram.

This road is symbolic of the path now open to the women of India—the path to freedom and self-expression. It is also a proof of the power of cooperation.

The Panchayat has also made adequate arrangements to meet the continuous demand for water both for drinking, and irrigation. Two new wells have been dug for this purpose.

The Panchayat believing that arts and crafts should play a vital part in the life of villagers, has opened a centre where the women of the village can learn tailoring and embroidery.

The village women crowd this centre as it enables them not only to meet their domestic needs but also to add an extra income to the family.

The next pressing problem before the Panchayat was housing. The rapid growth of population and the resulting congestion in the village particularly in the Harijan colony, forced the Panchayat to act. They helped develop new sites and obtained the building materials, funds, and skilled labour needed. The Panchayat launched a slum-clearance project by providing loans to more than 23 Harijan families to build low-cost houses.

As for social and recreational activities, the Panchayat bought from its slender funds a radio costing Rs. 300. They have also provided a recreational centre for children called *Bal Vihar*. A village library is housed in a model building constructed entirely through shramdan. Apart from these, other community development programmes such as cooperative stores, etc., have been initiated.

The Panchayat's effort to raise funds for several projects and to drive home their significance has, on

the whole, met with astounding success. They have succeeded in maintaining the present projects and even expanding some of them.

The various schemes have had an effect in revitalising the social, cultural and economic life of the village.

Today Mattampally presents a scene of vigorous activity. The people are found busy in hundred ways —building a road, conducting a literacy class, demonstrating a smokeless chula, learning new arts and crafts and so on. Every one is keen to do his part honestly and sincerely and help the Panchayat to improve the lot of the people.

Mattampally's progress is indeed a milestone in the experiment of Panchayati Raj and the successful part women can play in shaping the destiny of a village and ultimately their country.

MAMU MAJRA SHOWS THE WAY

Cooperation Leads to Prosperity

D. N. OJHA

THE VILLAGE Mamu Majra is situated at a distance of about 4 miles from Shahabad in Karnal district of Punjab. The village is approachable by a kucha road westward along the river Markanda from Shahabad. It is inhabited by Kamboj Sikhs (67 families), Valmikis (3 families) and Harijans (10 families). Practically all the Valmiki and Harijan families are landless and all the Sikh families are agriculturists. Mamu Majra has leapt into fame by organising a Cooperative Society. It has indeed added a brilliant chapter in the history of the cooperative movement in the country. The success in cooperation, however, came to this village after repeated failures.

The Coopertive Department of the State attempted to organise a Cooperative Society in the village in 1950, but the villagers were sceptical about the move. The officials then were successful in enrolling the Harijans and Valmikis of the village as members of the cooperative credit society floated by them. The loans were advanced to these members without demand and, very naturally, were spent in unplanned manner and mostly for unproductive purposes. The net result of this haphazard method of working was that very soon the society became defunct.

FRESH PROPOSALS

With the opening of the Development Block at Shahabad, the villagers came in frequent contact with the Extension Workers who told them about the improved methods of agriculture, use of fertilizers etc. The cultivators of the village, who were mostly Sikhs, also wanted to adopt these innovations but they were handicapped because of the want of funds. They approached the Village Level Worker, who replied in a suggestive tone, "Why not borrow from the Cooperative Society ?" But, there was no response to these ideas because none wanted to join the existing cooperative society, which had heavy overdues against its members and was itself in arrears to the bank. So the matter again rested where it was.

In August 1960, it so happened that a Sub-Inspector of the Cooperative Department visited the village in connection with the routine inspection and recovery of dues of the Cooperative Society. Some of the enthusiastic cultivators met him and explained their difficulties in getting the loans etc. They requested him to help them in organising a fresh society. After some discussions the Sub-Inspector agreed to do so and a meeting was convened. All the cultivators unanimously resolved to float a Service Cooperative Society.

Soon after the meeting, preparations for organising the society were started. Precaution was taken that the defaulters of the old cooperative society were not enrolled as members in the new society. Even new members were warned that it was due to their requirement that the society was being formed and its success and proper functioning would depend on their prompt repayment of loans. The members readily agreed to abide by the rules and discharge their responsibility.

The Society was floated by the middle of September 1960 with 22 members who paid Rs. 420 as share capital. Nine months later, the Society was registered. It was affiliated to the Central Cooperative Bank, Karnal by investing Rs. 300 into its shares and a loan of Rs. 4,000 was taken. It was a short-term loan which was distributed to the members according to their maximum credit limit (fixed according to the departmental instructions). All the members repaid their loans on the due date promptly. Since the day of registration, no member, it is remarkable to note, has ever defaulted though the quantum of borrowing has consistently increased. Since the registration of the Society, advances to members have always been more than the amount borrowed from the Bank except in 1964-65 when there was a fall due to refund of deposits. Moreover, the recovery from the members and payments made to the Bank have always been according to the instalments fixed. Neither have members nor the Society has ever been in arrears.

The membership of the Society has continued to grow steadily. From 22 at its inception it went up to 75 by the end of 1964. During this period only one member left the Society because of his migration to another village. The percentage of membership to the total number of families in the village is fairly high and satisfactory. According to the Village Level Worker and the Inspector (Cooperative) the members are quite conscious of their role and responsibility. The steady progress of the Society has been possible because of this factor.

DEPOSITS

There may be many cooperative societies even in District Karnal which may be financially better off than the Society at Mamu Majra but considering its age and the determination on the part of its members, the achievements are quite revealing.

One of the ways for judging the success of a cooperative society may be to examine how the people have reposed their confidence in it. They reflect this by placing deposits with it. The account book of the Society reveals that deposits have continued to increase year to year. From Rs. 3,820 in 1961-62, it rose to Rs. 9,645 in 1964-65.

Last year the Society started a fertilizer sale depot in the village. Formerly the farmers had to go to Shahabad to get the fertilizers but now they can purchase it in their own village. The Society has already sold approximately 1,000 bags of fertilizers.

The Society has also undertaken the distribution of sugar on Ration Cards. The storage of these commodities have been arranged free of any charge.

The Society is encouraging its members to sell their produce through the Marketing Society, Shahabad. A rebate of one per cent on the interest charged on loan is allowed to those who sell their produce through the Marketing Society. This scheme has been introduced from this year and the management hopes that the majority of the members will avail of the service of the Marketing Society when the crop is ready.

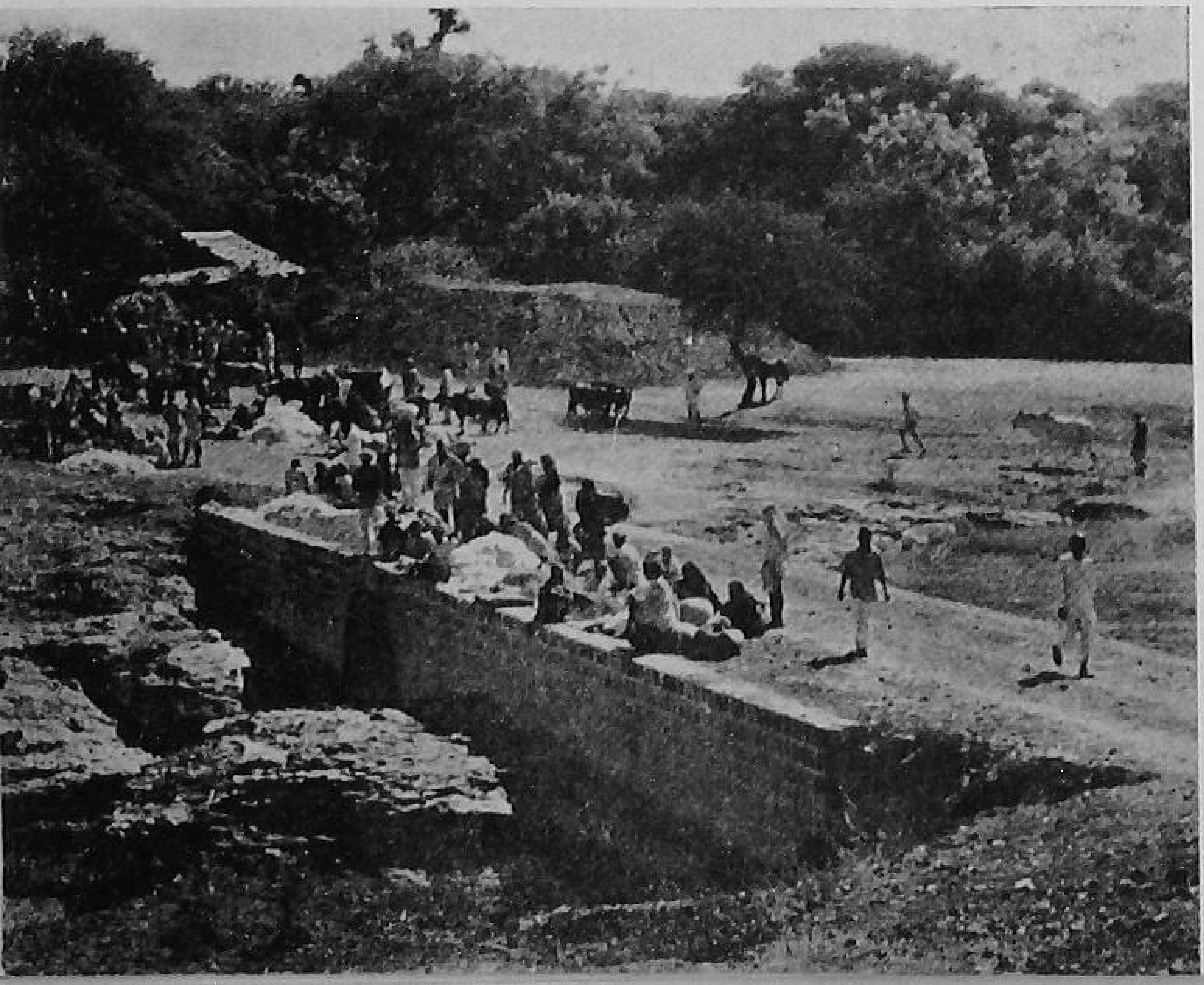
The people of Mamu Majra have proved that the success of a cooperative endeavour depends upon the members themselves, that is, how far they are conscious of their role and responsibilities. But, if an organisation is imposed from above without caring for the requirements, the cooperation on the part of the people always remains dormant. The role of the Extension Worker should be only to inform and educate. The initiative should always come from the people themselves.

1

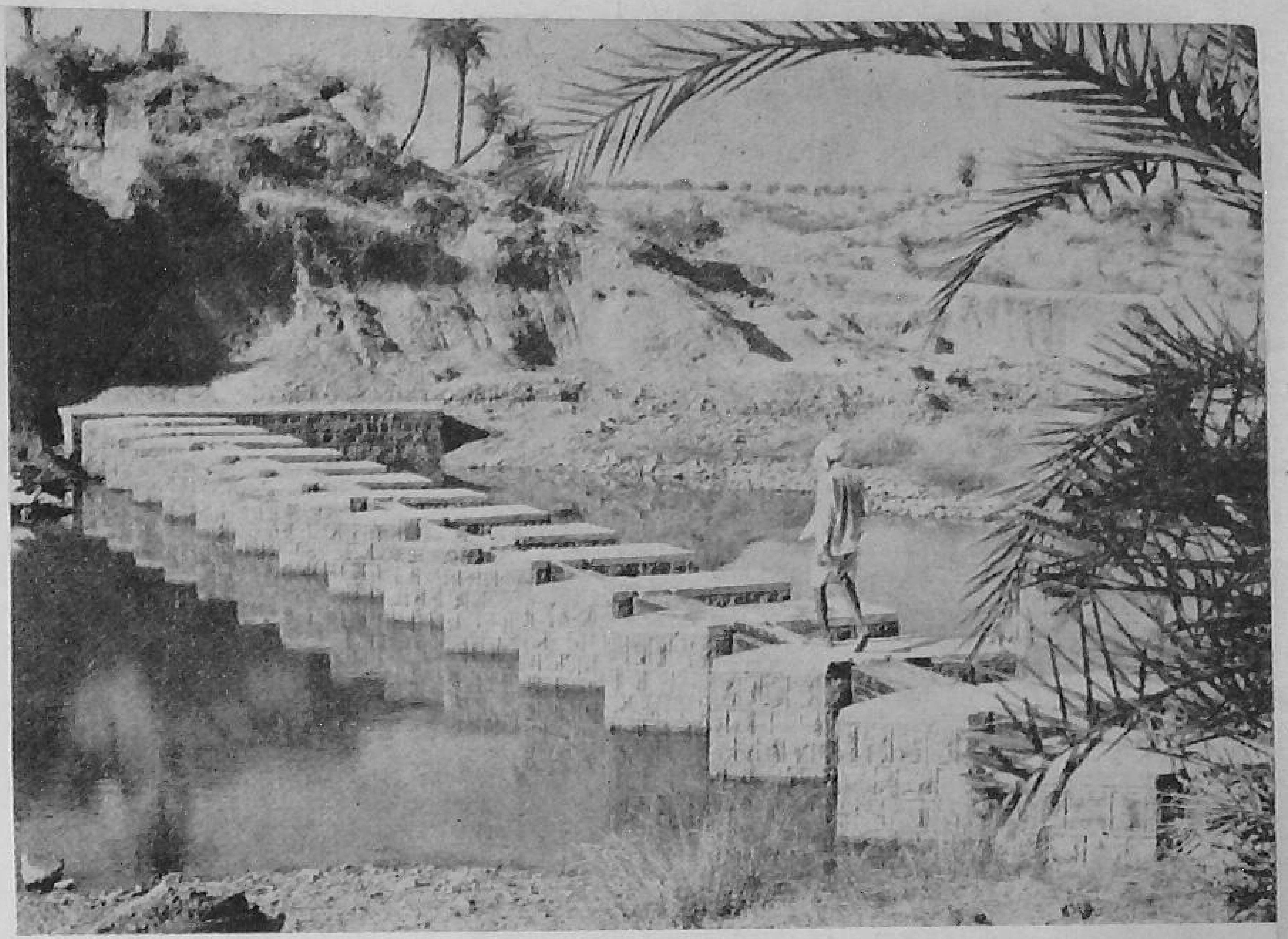
Changing Face of Rural India

THE DEFENCE Labour Bank, which was opened all over the country immediately after the Chinese aggression, has opened up new vistas for self-help and mutual aid for the rural people today. This Bank offers a security perhaps stronger than the gilt-edged security offered today by government. The heartening news of the successful functioning of the Defence Labour Bank is pouring in from all corners of the country. The accompanying pictures from Madhya Pradesh show how the Village Volunteer Force with the help of the Defence Labour Bank are gradually changing the face of rural India.

2



5



PICTURE GUIDE

1. Members of Develabihar Village Volunteer Force and other villagers utilized the credited labour to the Defence Labour Bank for deepening the village tank.

2. A pucca road and a bridge built by the members of the Village Volunteer Force and other villagers of Develabihar in Shajapur district.

3. This three-mile long road was built through shramdan by the villagers of Malkhedi in Shajapur district. This small village has a population of 124.

4. The people of Maksi in Shajapur district built an approach road from their village to the temple.

5. A view of the bridge newly constructed by the members of Village Volunteer Force and villagers of Gunsi in Shajapur district.

3

4

Shri Thambou Singha

STORY OF A SUCCESSFUL FARMER

CHINMOY NAG

THIS IS the story of an ordinary man who with extraordinary determination has fought against want and poverty and come out successful. He has not only changed his own lot but also shown others how with hard work and perseverence man can make the earth yield more. Shri Thambou Singha—that is the name of our hero—hails from an obscure village Chandrapur within the jurisdiction of Lala Development Block in Cachar district of Assam. A few years back nobody heard of Shri Singha but today he is honoured as a cultivator of high merit. His fame has travelled beyond the boundaries of his small village.

Shri Singha has a chequered career. A few years back, he had to fight a grim battle for existence with about seven bighas of land which was the only source of income to feed as many as seven mouths. He used to get about seven maunds of paddy per bigha which did not enable him to make both ends meet. He wanted to be out of the woods by having recourse to business but to no avail. He had not enough capital to seek avenues elsewhere.

Luck at last favoured Shri Singha. He came in contact with an agricultural demonstrator some eight years ago who inspired him to adopt improved agricultural methods. The demonstrator also offered seven bags of oil cakes and half a maund of Ammonium Sulphate and demonstrated on his field how chemical fertilizers were applied. The chemical fertilizers boosted the production to thirteen maunds per bigha. Singha became convinced and felt the need of using fertilizers and cowdung to increase the fertility of his land. He also felt an irresistible urge in him to know more and more of modern improved cultural methods.

The Training Camp at Chandrapur for Gram Sahayaks gave him the chance to satisfy this urge. He joined the camp and learnt in detail the use and effect of various fertilizers. When the training was over Singha applied his theoretical knowledge to his field. He prepared his land with singular care and applied green manure, compost and mixed fertilizers. He transplanted the seedlings in line and used weeders twice. The reward was eighteen maunds per bigha.

Package Programme brought for him a message of brighter agriculture and turned him into an ideal farmer. He accepted package of practices in right earnest and got a record yield of twenty-seven maunds per bigha in the year 1963.

Now he has brought his land under double cropping and has been getting twenty maunds per bigha regularly.

In his opinion, in double cropping areas less fertilizers can be used for the later crop as the period of *sali* is a bit longer and time of flowering stage is more or less fixed. The plants cannot take the excess of fertilizers if applied in the *sali* crop, while in *aus* season, the application of more fertilizers means more production because the flowering stage may be deferred and the plants can consume more fertilizers for their better growth.

Today people come to Singha for his advice which he gives with pleasure. Singha realises that the country at present needs joint efforts of its people. It also needs people like him who would go forward with indomitable spirit to usher in a better India.

Shri Gadiraju receiving the first prize for producing highest yield of cotton

GADIRAJU

pioneer among farmers

N. RAMANATHAN

FROM ANANTAVARAM, a small village in Guntur District of Andhra Pradesh, comes one of the most outstanding farmers of our country. He is Shri Radhakrishna Gadiraju, well-known for his achievements in successful crop production.

Gadiraju is a graduate in Arts, but has devoted himself completely to scientific methods of cultivation. He has taken a special interest in cotton cultivation and has won several prizes for his achievements in successful cotton production.

One of the most recent and outstanding achievements of Gadiraju was production of 2,233 kg. of kapas per acre which is considered to be perhaps the highest yield of cotton ever achieved in this part of the peninsula. "Such high yield was possible only by adopting scientific methods of cultivation consisting of improved seeds, proper spacing, sound cultural practices, timely plant protection and above all, complete and balanced manuring with nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash", said Gadiraju.

Gadiraju selected the Punjab American 216 F. Cotton variety for his field. The seeds were sown as a mixture in the standing crop of turmeric. For every two rows of turmeric, one row of cotton was sown. The crop was sown during the middle of December 1962.

Shri D. Viswanatha Reddy, Director of Agriculture, Andhra Pradesh (centre) inspecting the cotton field of Shri Gadiraju

Gadiraju is a firm believer in the judicious application of fertilizers and knows very well that the key to success lies in feeding the crop with the three major and essential plant foods—nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash. The crop was sprayed with insecticides and given nine irrigations, intercultured twice and weeded four times.

It was no wonder that the above practices produced on an average 100 bolls per plant, thereby giving him 2,233 kg. of kapas per acre and also a net income of about Rs. 2,321 per acre.

It is undeniable that this promising result was the outcome of sustained effort, meticulous care in respect of fertilization, plant protection and above all, an intelligent understanding of the cotton crop which is new to this intensively paddy growing area. Gadiraju has played a pioneering role in spreading the gospel of cotton cultivation among his fellow farmers and it is hoped the other farmers will follow his example and raise their cotton yield to his level.

(*Courtesy* : *Fertiliser News*)

Shramdan On Every Sunday

shankerpurmania panchayat forges ahead

P. N. JAIN

SHANKERPURMANIA Village Panchayat, 10 miles from Ander Block in Saran district of Bihar, has earned a name in promoting the shramdan activities, particularly in the field of communications. A visitor to any village in the jurisdiction of this Panchayat will witness significant landmarks which go to show the enthusiasm and interest of the people.

When the Panchayat, with a population of 2,500, was constituted in 1960 an era of self-help activities in the villages under its jurisdiction began. The Panchayat levied a toll tax worth Rs. 100 per annum. The same was realised every year. Income in the form of a share from the land revenue collected by the Panchayat was also available for being utilised in the development programme of the villages. Soon the Panchayat felt that this sum was too meagre to take up any programme on an ambitious scale. As the fund was too little, the Panchayat in its existence of three years could do nothing better than building nine culverts and installing five hand pumps.

A way was found out by the Panchayat to intensify its activities. The Mukhiya (*Sarpanch*) of the Panchayat summoned a meeting on January 19, 1964 and mobilised public opinion for performing regular shramdan for the projects of common interest. An unanimous resolution to do shramdan on every Sunday was passed in the meeting and a committee of five members was formed to administer the programme.

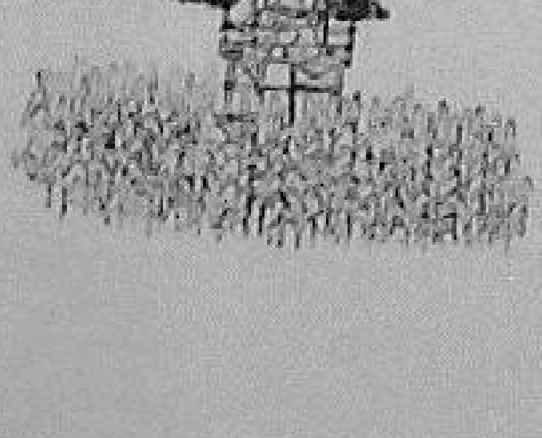
PROCESS AND PROGRESS

There are 260 families in the villages covered by this Panchayat. The Mukhiya has appointed 13 headmen, one for every 20 families whose duties are to supervise over the programme in all respects viz., intimation of the time and programme to be taken up, allocation of the work to the households and realisation of money from the absentees in lieu of free labour. The five-man committee decides on every Sunday the details of the programme to be executed on the next Sunday and asks the headmen to mobilise voluntary labour for it.

Mechanism of social control has been introduced for rendering and effective administration which has the moral sanction of the people. If no household attends to shramdan on the allotted day and time, the Panchayat realises Re. 1 (as fine or compensatory amount) in lieu of labour. Likewise, if the headman does not turn up, he will have to pay Rs. 2, and the Mukhiya, a sum of Rs. 5. The women members also participate in the shramdan along with men for two hours on each working day.

So far four miles of road have been completed and work over a project of two miles is in progress. It is estimated that work worth Rs. 6,500 has been carried over. Besides, 10 masonry wells, one drinking water well, and one upper primary school building were also taken up through shramdan.

The reason for the success of this programme is the dynamic leadership provided by Shri Darika Singh, Krishna Pande and Ram Rajya Rai. They have mobilised the resources of the villages in such a way for common benefit that even their erstwhile opponents and critics have shown a change of heart and have provided full support for the programme. Shankerpurmania has thus found out the means to solve its financial problem. Lack of fund can never be an obstacle on the path to progress if there is a strong determination to step forward. This is the message that Shankerpurmania Panchayat conveys to its counterparts all over the country.



DOKIPARRU
Towards Prosperity

A. JAYA RAMA RAO

DOKIPARRU, a small village in Gudiwala Taluk of Andhra Pradesh has a record of continued progress since its constitution as a Union Board in 1916. Two decades later the village had the distinction of being a major Panchayat in the State. Today it is one of the best Panchayats that Andhra Pradesh can boast of.

I was privileged to have my first posting, twenty years ago at this beautiful village, surrounded on all sides by canals. In those days the village Panchayat could afford only one clerk to collect taxes, etc. Some avenues for increasing the fund had to be found out. I suggested that grazing fields and fisheries should be given on lease. The Panchayat accepted the proposal. As a result, the income of the Panchayat increased by Rs. 1,000. Another clerk was appointed to facilitate the working of the Panchayat.

Dokiparru is blessed with natural roads—sandy tracts. So there was no necessity of incurring expenses on roads. The Panchayat wisely undertook more important issues like deepening of tanks, better communications, etc. Bridges were constructed on the canals to connect the village with the outside world. Electricity came to Dokiparru in 1958.

The village today has a Community Radio, a dispensary and a library. The library which is known as the "Taj of Dokiparru" was built at the heart of the village by Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao in the memory of his wife.

The Panchayat Office building is another gift. The building belonged to Shri P. Hanumayyachoudari, ex-chairman of the Panchayat. After his death his widow and daughter donated the building to the Panchayat.

Dokiparru pays special attention to the education of its children. In 1952 a high school was established with separate hostels for boys and girls. For the construction of the school building, Shri V. V. Gangadhara Rao of the village contributed Rs. 25,000. Besides, the village has four primary schools where mid-day meal is served.

Dokiparru today presents the picture of an ideal village. Two highways pass through this village thus connecting it well with neighbouring and distant places. Regular buses ply. It has a post office which will soon be upgraded into a Sub-Post office with telephone facility.

The people are keen to keep their village clean. They have built ten public latrines. There are twenty wells and ten tanks in the village. A Key village sub-centre-*cum*-artificial insemination centre was opened at Dekiparru in 1958. A building at a cost of Rs. 10,000 has been built to house the veterinary dispensary.

The Panchayat is now thinking of levying agricultural tax to ensure safe drinking water for the villagers.

The women of the village have formed a Mahila Mandal where training is given in sewing, embroidery, etc. The young men have their Yuvak Mandal for games and other activities.

Dokiparru is marching towards prosperity with confidence. With course of time, no doubt, the pace of this march will be speedier.

LETTERS

(*Continued from page 1*)

It is a matter of great regret that despite the presence of these trained officials the achievements in the field are not to the desired extent. If we try to find out the cause of this we would see that most of the officials grumble more for their pay, allowances, nature of work, etc. than devote themselves to the task. Very few seem to work out of love for the country and the nation. It is really unfortunate that the training imparted to the officials has failed in most of the cases to change their mental attitude. The teachers in the various training centres could not rouse a sense of responsibility, discipline and love for work. I would suggest that the training course should be so oriented as to create all these noble qualities in the trainees. When they leave the Centre they should have the ideal of service before self. They should realise that they are giving their todays for the generations of tomorrow. Unless our officials are imbued with a mismionery spirit and become a true *Karma Yogi* the Community Development programme will not yield the desired result.

25-6-65
Chenanie
Jammu & Kashmir

Yours etc.
Mansa Ram
Block Development Officer

A VILLAGE PARLIAMENT IN SESSION

A. B. DATTA

CHAKRIBERA is a small village in Darrang district of Assam where we had gone on some business. It is inhabited by small cultivators and men of "two leaves and a bud". Some have come from outside and settled there, some are of the soil. It is a cosmopolitan village. It lies against the hilly background of the distant horizon, and quiet flows a rivulet nearby.

It was the 9th day of April last. The village Parliament was going to meet in the premises of a primary school. It was in the afternoon. The sun was inclining to the west. Round about 5 or so, they started coming in—men and women, young and old. Some came on foot and some on cycles. Under a spreading canopy, they took their seat. So, the session started right in time.

The Panchayat President rose to make the inaugural speech. He was tall and black, a bit shaken by age but had a confident look. As he spoke, there prevailed pindrop silence. No sound was heard, not a whispering voice. They heard him with rapt attention.

The President welcomed them all and read out the annual report and the budget of the year too. They discussed the report at length—men and women, young and old. This was followed by a general discussion on any topic. A man got up and said, "The culvert in the village corner has not been completed. Will the President kindly say when it is likely to be completed?" The President replied, "My friend is right. We ran short of the materials required. That is why the work could not be done. It will be done before long."

Another villager said, "The village roads need repair badly. Let us press the Anchal Panchayat (Block level body) for fund." "We have approached them a number of times on this issue. But they themselves have not much fund for this. I suggest that we should not depend on any one for this vital need of ours. We will do it ourselves. We will repair our village roads through shramdan", said the President.

There was an immediate response. "Yes, Yes, we will do shramdan as we did on the Republic Day", they all shouted.

The President thanked them. Now another man stood up and said, "We require more agricultural loan. It should be arranged."

This time not the President but a member of the Panchayat rose to reply. "We have talked to the co-operative," he said, "we expect to get the loan soon." "What about Panchayat Ghar?" asked one. "We understand that the people are divided over the location of it."

Before he had finished a few persons shouted, "We will give land free. The Panchayat Ghar will be centrally situated if it is built on our side of the village." Their claim was challenged by several others. "This is not true," they said, "it will be off the road. Only a few people live there. It should be on the western side where we will donate land."

So, they differed and argued. At last the President appealed to them not to get excited over this issue. "Simple is our issue," he said. "Whether on the eastern or the western side it will be our Panchayat Bhavan—a Panchayat Bhavan for the village. So, let us not quarrel, and I have a few words here to say. We may choose three or four persons whom we all trust. They will give their views which would be final in respect of the location of the Panchayat Ghar."

Three elderly persons were chosen. They moved to a little distance and discussed among themselves. After a while they returned and gave their view, which was disclosed by the President. The recommendation was received amidst clapping and cheering. Divided they seemed, but united they emerged.

Other problems were placed. These also were decided by a consensus of opinion. Members differed now and then, but they reached accord too. Just before dusk, the session came to an end. The President rose, gave his sincerest thanks to all who had come from far and nigh. The tinged rays of the setting sun told of the parting day when homeward the ploughman was plodding his weary way.

Thus they had met and thus they had solved their problems of the day. Who says that Gram Panchayat is an inert body!

FROM HERE AND THERE

POSTAL FACILITIES IN RURAL AREAS

As AGAINST the Third Five-Year Plan target of opening 23,000 post offices, the Posts and Telegraphs Department has set up more than 19,323 post offices in the country. In keeping with its tradition of providing more and more postal facilities in rural areas, more than 17,886 post offices were opened in villages. At present there are 96,596 post offices in the country of these 87,817 are in rural areas.

In addition to the opening of new post offices, the Department has made steady progress in increasing the frequency of postal deliveries in the villages. The Department has also experimented with a novel method of providing postal facilities in the villages. With the introduction of Panchayat Raj, it was felt that basic postal facilities such as sale of postal stationery and stamps and the delivery of mails could be provided in the rural areas at a cheaper cost. A scheme known as 'Panchayati Postal Scheme' was evolved and tried in Maharashtra. The scheme is designed to work with the active cooperation of the villagers. Nine such schemes are now being worked which cover 119 villages.

* * * *

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION

Two HUNDRED and forty four rural localities have been electrified in district Deoria till March last by the U.P. State Electricity Board under the Rural Electrification Programme.

Out of these 208 localities had received electricity till December 1964 and 36 were electrified during January, February and March last.

The Board has decided to electrify 90 more localities in the district in 1965-66.

* * * *

DRINKING WATER FACILITIES IN JHABUA

THE GOVERNMENT of Madhya Pradesh is taking drastic measures to mobilise all water resources in Jhabua district to provide drinking water facilities for the inhabitants and cattle-head of the district. Every Block of the district has been provided with a sum of Rs. 3.18 lakhs to preserve water in dams, pickup weirs and nistar tanks. Besides deepening of wells three projects would be undertaken during the Fourth Plan period to provide drinking water facilities.

* * *

TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT BLOCK

TACCAVI LOAN amounting to Rs. 34,000 was distributed to cultivators of Mahadwani Tribal Development Block in Mandla district of Madhya Pradesh for various agricultural purposes during the year 1964-65. Besides, improved seeds and agricultural implements, chemical fertilizers and as well as pesticides were also distributed. In all, 90 demonstration plots were laid and 1,629 compost pits were dug.

In the sphere of irrigation and soil conservation one pumping set was supplied, one well was sunk and bunds raised on various nallahs. Moreover, 1,030 acres of land was bunded and old bunds renovated on 1,275 acres of land.

* * *

PANCHAYAT BUILDING AND BALWADIS

AT A RECENT meeting of Mandal Panchayat, Khargone in Madhya Pradesh it was informed that the State Government had sanctioned a sum of Rs. 53,000 for the construction of Mandal Panchayat building at Khargone. A committee has been formed under the chairmanship of the Collector to manage the construction of the building.

It was also decided at the meeting to incur an expenditure of Rs. 6,000 on setting up of Balwadis in the area during the current year. Each of the Balwadis will be given financial help to the tune of Rs. 500. In this connection, an appeal has been made to all the Kendra Panchayats to establish Balwadis in their respective areas.

* * *

SHAHPURA WATER SUPPLY SCHEME

A WATER SUPPLY scheme costing Rs. 32,000 was inaugurated at Shahpura, a Block headquarter, in Madhya Pradesh recently. The Collector, Jabalpur, performed the ceremony by commissioning a 115-feet deep tubewell in presence of a large gathering. The pump on the well will store water in a reservoir from where pure drinking water will be distributed through seven public taps. This water supply scheme was completed through the joint efforts of the State Government and the village Panchayat.

* * *

COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT IN SANCHI

THE SUCCESSFUL drive of cooperative movement has changed the picture of Sanchi Block in Madhya Pra-

desh. As many as 80 different cooperative societies are working in a well organised way to achieve the target of development programme. At present out of 7,090 agricultural families, 4,000 families have been covered by the movement and all possible efforts are being made to bring the rest of the families under the cooperative fold. It is expected that every family will be covered within this year.

In the year 1964-65, an amount of Rs. 14,05,151 was distributed as short-term loans by these societies. Besides, Rs. 50,000 were distributed as medium-term loan and Rs. 57,500 distributed as taccavi loans. But remarkable as it is, the amount of deposit was raised to Rs. 70,000 against the target of Rs. 500 by these societies.

* * *

ADDITIONAL INCOME FROM INFERIOR LAND

A PROGRESSIVE cultivator, Shri Thanuram Baghel of village Bitkuli in Simga Development Block in Raipur district of Madhya Pradesh made a profit of Rs. 200 per acre by sowing groundnuts in *Bhata* land. *Bhata* land is regarded here as inferior type of land on which only minor crops like *Kodo Kutki* are sown. The successful experiment of Shri Baghel has proved that *Bhata* land could be utilised for raising cash crops.

This year Shri Baghel intends to sow groundnuts on five acres of land. He will apply 255 kilos of ammonium sulphate and 50 kilos of super phosphate per acre. His success in this experiment under package programme has given a lead to other cultivators.

* * *

PANCHAYATI RAJ TRAINING CENTRES

FIVE PANCHAYATI Raj Training Centres are now being run in West Bengal with a view to imparting training to functionaries of Village Panchayats in the State.

One such centre was inaugurated recently at Barajaguti in Nadia district.

* * *

APPLIED NUTRITION PROGRAMME

AT A TWO-DAY conference of State level coordinators of Applied Nutrition Programme in New Delhi the expansion of the programme to 1,000 additional Blocks during the Fourth Plan was envisaged. In the selection of the Blocks for the Fourth Plan, it was decided that preference would be given to Tribal Development Blocks and Blocks in the areas with pronounced economic and nutritional backwardness.

The Conference discussed the various components of the programme like production, feeding, training and evaluation and evolved various measures to strengthen its different facets. It was decided that in a phased measure the various production components of the programme should be strengthened so that an optimum level of operational efficiency could be reached in six months in each of the Applied Nutrition Blocks. Steps were also indicated to integrate the different production components of the programme, *viz*. horticulture, poultry and fisheries into a composite whole. The need for building up an effective line of supervision and adequate means of reporting and evaluation was also stressed to the Conference. Vitalisation of the youth and Mahila Mandals was also recommended as an effective means of placing the programme on self-sustaining basis.

* * * *

LOANS FOR MINOR IRRIGATION WORKS

THE GOVERNMENT of Uttar Pradesh has framed special rules for advancing loans to Gaon Sabhas for construction and repair of the community minor irrigation works.

Under the rules loan up to Rs. 20,000 will be admissible to a Gaon Sabha for the construction and repair of bundhis, dams and regulators, besides construction of artesian wells and reservoirs. These loans will be sanctioned in instalments.

On completion of the project, a subsidy of twenty-five per cent of the cost will also be available to the Gaon Sabha.

* * * *

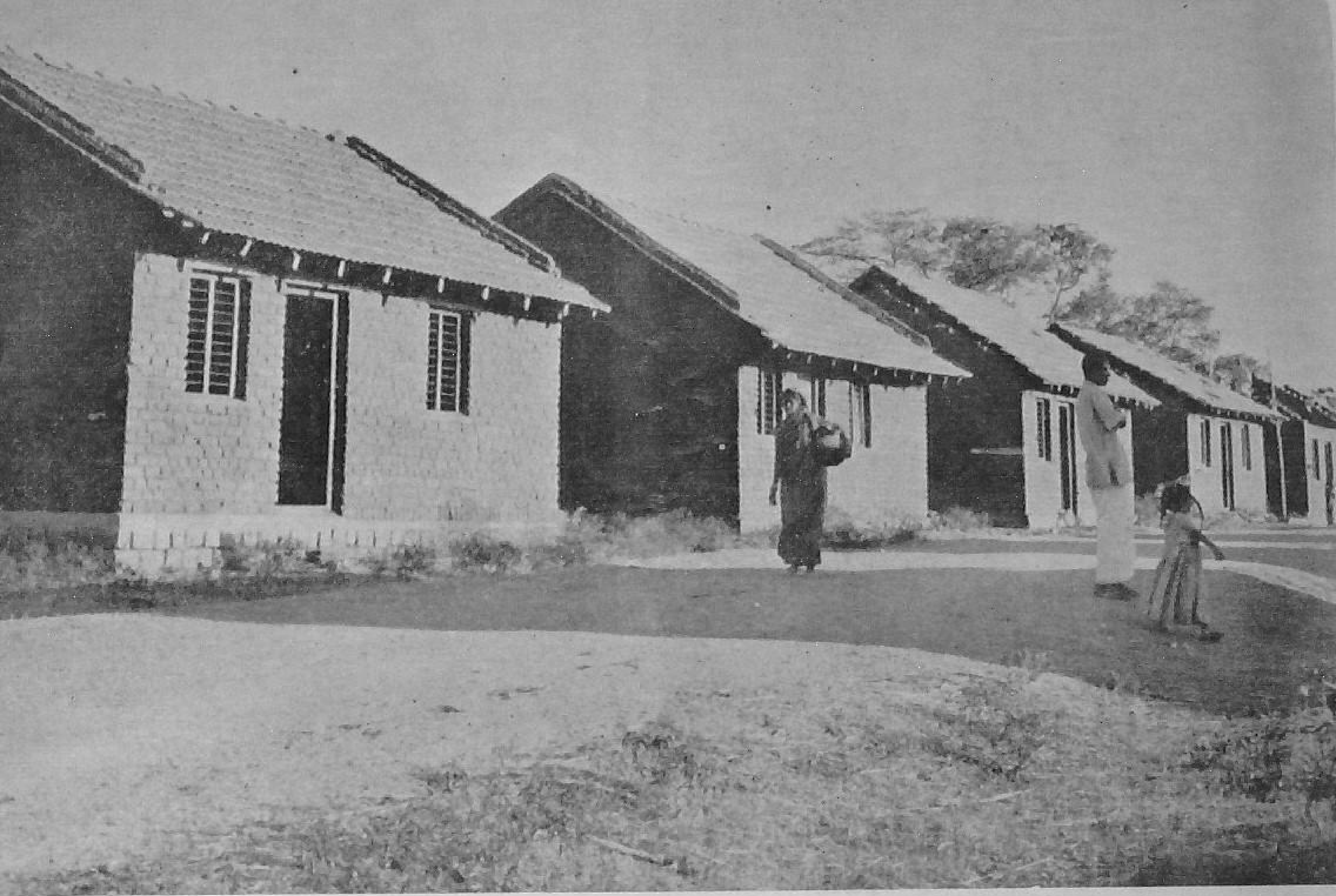
ROAD THROUGH SHRAMDAN

THE VILLAGERS of Rajamau, about 30 miles from Lucknow has built a two-and-a-half mile long and 32 feet wide road through shramdan.

Shri Chandrika Prasad, a veteran kisan leader of the area, who is leading a life of renunciation, enthused the poor people so much so that they not only joined in thousands to complete the road but also donated their fields and houses that came in the way of road alignment.

Nearly 12,000 persons worked in all for about nine months to complete the earth work of the road. In terms of money, the donations of labour, fields and houses by the villagers came to over Rs. 60,000.

The shramdan road at one end joins at Rajamau the pucca road to Lucknow *via* Bachrawan and at the other, it touches river Sai on the border of Unnao district. At this end, the 400-year old temple of Kanjeshwar is being renovated and again through shramdan several construction works have been undertaken to develop it into a picnic spot and also a centre for Sanskrit studies with residential facilities. The place with the backdrop of the river and lush green surroundings of the countryside is ideally suited for this purpose.



TOWARDS A BETTER TOMORROW

India lives in villages. But before Independence the villages were neglected and basic amenities were denied to the millions of villagers. Our government from the very beginning has paid attention to the rural upliftment. One of the schemes drawn for this purpose is Village Housing Project Scheme, which aims at providing the rural people with modern hygienic houses. Practically all the States have gone ahaad with the scheme and low mud houses with thatched roofs are fast becoming a past memory. The picture shows a well-built residential colony in Chokkasandra village in Mysore, the inhabitants of which no longer think of the dark dungeons—their one-time dwellings.

Bringing water is the task of the village women. They like it as it gives them a chance to meet together. Numerous songs have been composed on this. The picture shows the smiling face of a village woman returning from the well with a pitcher full of water.

Printed by the Manager, Government of India Press, Faridabad, and published by the Director, Publications Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Delhi-6, on behalf of the Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation.

Regd. No. D—877.